

as thick as a man's thigh, though it did not appear to have fed recently.

K. G. GAIRDNER.

March, 1914.

[From the description of this snake given us by Mr. Gairdner, it was no doubt *Python reticulatus*. Eds.]

No. XIV.—ON THE BREEDING HABITS OF *HYPHSIRHINA ENHYDRIS* AND *HERPETON TENTCAULATUM*
(THE TENTACLE SNAKE).

Hypsirhina enhydris. The following observations confirm and supplement what is already known about the breeding habits of this species.

I obtained a female in the month of December showing enlarged ovarian follicles, in which the embryos, 10 in number, could be just discerned. I received another gravid female in April, containing 18 young ones, their development in this case being well advanced. The mother was a very large specimen measuring 680 mm. in length. A third was caught in July, which gave birth to a single still-born young one, probably the last of her brood. The other records, quoted by Major Wall in his article on this snake in the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, are as follows:—"Colonel Evans came across a pair *in copula* in Lower Burma on October 16th. * * * * Another was taken by Theobald near Rangoon in a gravid condition in March."

By piecing all this evidence together, it would appear, therefore, that intercourse takes place at the end of the rainy season, about October, and that the young are born when the rains have again set in, about June or July.

The single young one, referred to above, measured 180 mm. in length, and resembled the parent in every way except that, as is usually the case, the coloration and markings were more vivid.

Herpeton tentaculatum. In the *Catalogue of Snakes in the British Museum*, the number of scales across mid-body in this snake is given as 37. An examination of a number of specimens has shown me that this is not always the case, but that they may vary from 35 to 39. I have recently been able to examine a brood of 13 young ones, which shows this variation very fully. Unfortunately they did not come to

maturity, owing to the death of the mother. This happened in June, and judging from the state of their development, they would not, I think, have been born for some weeks. They were quite white, but in every way perfectly formed, including the "tentacles." The genital organs of all the males were extruded, rendering the differentiation of sex an easy matter. In the process of examination, some of them were allowed to become dry so that a count at that point could not be made.

Length of the mother, 770 mm.

The costals are counted two heads' lengths behind the head, at mid-body and two heads' lengths before the vent.

MOTHER. COSTALS, 37. 39. 35. VENTRALS, 122.					
MALES.			FEMALES.		
	Costals.	Ventrals.		Costals.	Ventrals.
1.	34. 35. 33.	107	10.	34. 37. 33.	114
2.	36. 37. 35.	122	11.	36. 38. 35.	—
3.	33. 36. 36.	118	12.	— 37. —	—
4.	34. 35. 33.	—	13.	34. 37. 33.	116
5.	33. 36. —	122			
6.	34. 37. —	103			
7.	— 37. —	—			
8.	34. 35. 33.	112			
9.	33. 35. 33.	112			

From the above list it will be seen that the number of scales in this species is by no means regular, and in this particular it resembles the true sea-snakes. The ventral shields also are extremely small, being not more than twice the breadth of the adjacent costals. They are sometimes missing entirely, and anteriorly are indistinguishable from the costals, making a true count difficult.

MALCOLM SMITH.

July, 1914.

No. XV.—NOTE ON A RARE LIZARD, (*LYGOSOMA ISODACTYLOM.*)

During the past year I have received or collected nine specimens of this rare lizard, previously known only from a single one